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To: Examiner Peter Choi
US Patent Office
Fax Phone Number: (571) 273-8300

Art Unit: 3623

Application Control Number 10/036,200

Date: February 22, 2009

From Norman Ken Ouchi

Examiner Choi

Attached are the response to the office action mailed November 24, 2008..

Nine pages plus this cover sheet

Please call me at 408-757-5862 to discuss this response.

Thank you,



Norman Ken Ouchi

Response to Office Action Mailed 11/24/08

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Examiner: Peter Choi

Art Unit: 3623

Title: Object Based Workflow Route

Application Number: 10/036,200

Confirmation Number 2842

Inventor: Norman Ken Ouchi

Date: February 22, 2009

Summary

This action is non-final

Claims 21-39 are pending.

Claims 21-39 are rejected.

Claims Rejection

Claims 21-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101.

Claims 21-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112.

Claims 21-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Du et al (US Patent 5,826,237) in view of Kim (US 2002/0065701)

Discussion

1) 35 U.S.C. 101 Rejection

Claims 21-31 The workflows are material objects usually implemented as computer systems with programs that are directed by routes that are material in the form of information recorded, as bits, in the memory of the workflow systems. If needed, one can examine the bits and their state with appropriate equipment. The claims for the present invention describe methods to create or generate a workflow route from another workflow route. While some of the steps could be performed mentally, the result must ultimately be physically realized as bits in the memory of a workflow system.

Workflow can be implemented using paper travelers with the route printed on the traveler and the position of the item marked on the traveler. The present invention describes methods to create or generate a route from another route and the generated route would be physically manifested as the printed traveler with the generated route.

In addition, Claim 21 claims the coordination of the two routes using signals between the two workflow systems. Claims 24-28 claim signaling information collected at one workflow with the other workflow.

The specification is replete with references to workflow as concrete, material objects.

10/036,200 Object Based Workflow Route N. K. Ouchi 2/22/2009 Page 1 of 9